

Subject: Alleged Assassination
Attempt on Life of CASTILLO
Armas

Date of Information: 25 June 1955

(Place Acquired: [REDACTED])

Date Acquired: [REDACTED]

Evaluation: [REDACTED]

Date of Report: 6 July 1955

(Source: [REDACTED])

1. On 25 June President CASTILLO Armas was invited to attend a luncheon at Chiquimula to celebrate the first anniversary of the capture of that town by the Liberation Forces. Many government employees and especially members of the Liberation and National Army were invited. Among those invited was Captain Fernando ROMERO who was given the job of assassinating the President.¹ CASTILLO, however, only made a short visit to Chiquimula and did not remain for lunch. ROMERO, therefore, was not able to fulfill his mission.

2. ROMERO then began to drink and soon entered into a heated political discussion with (Col) Jorge BARRIOS Solares, the Governor of the Department of Guatemala. ROMERO became so enraged he tried to use the hand grenade which he had in his pocket for use in killing the President. One of Col. BARRIOS' aides, however, saw what ROMERO intended to do and shot him through the head. The grenade went off wounding several people including Col. BARRIOS.²

COMMENTS:

1. It is not clear whether this was an organized attempt on the President's life or whether it was Captain ROMERO's own idea.
[REDACTED]
2. Newspaper accounts of this event indicate only that ROMERO was killed by a grenade which he had in his hand and fail to indicate why he was handling a grenade at a fiesta. Col. BARRIOS has evidently recovered from his wounds and has returned to duty.

Classification

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